

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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TAGS: TBIO, SWEL, OSCI, CA

SUBJECT: ONTARIO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTAL OR INSTITUTIONAL CONSTRAINTS
ON SCIENTISTS DOING GENETIC RESEARCH

DEPT PASS DR. JOSEPH R. QUINN, FOGARTY INTERNATIONAL CENTER
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH, BETHESDA, MD. 20014

REF: OTTAWA 130, 131, 132, 133, 152

1. QUERYING OF THE ONTARIO PROVINCIAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S OFFICE REVEALS NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY EXISTING PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION WHICH HAS BEEN APPLIED TO RESEARCH IN RNA/DNA RECOMBINANTS. CERTAINLY, NO SPECIFIC LEGISLATION HAS BEEN ENACTED. THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT GIVES GRANTS ONLY FOR APPLIED RESEARCH AND HAS NO ETHICS COMMITTEE; GRANTS SUBMITTED TO ONTARIO MUST ALREADY HAVE CLEARANCE FROM ETHICS COMMITTEE OF SPONSORING INSTITUTION.

2. IN TELEPHONE CALLS TO DR. DAVIDSON, CHAIRMAN OF HUMAN GENETICS AT MCMASTERS UNIVERSITY (HAMILTON) AND DR. SUBDEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE GENETICS DEPARTMENT, GUELPH UNIVERSITY (GUELPH), BOTH MEN SAID THAT NO ONE AT THEIR INSTITUTIONS WAS DOING WORK IN THIS FIELD OF GENETICS AND THAT AS FAR AS THEY KNEW, THERE ARE NO CONSTRAINTS OR POLICY ON RESEARCH IN DNA/RNA RECOMBINANTS; THEY BOTH INDICATED THAT THIS RESEARCH IS TOO NEW FOR THE MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (MRC) TO HAVE YET ISSUED ANY GUIDELINES. BOTH
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MEN CITED DR. SIMINOVITCH, CHAIRMAN OF THE GENETICS DEPARTMENT AT THE

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, AS THE BEST AUTHORITY ON POLICY AND RESEARCH IN THE PROVINCE.

3. DR. SIMINOVITCH, CHAIRMAN OF AN AD HOC COMMITTEE ON BIOHAZARDS, SAID THAT HIS COMMITTEE IS PRESENTING A PAPER TO THE MRC AT THE END OF FEBRUARY AND THAT THIS REPORT TAKES A QUOTE BOADER VIEW UNQUOTE - CONSIDERS VIRUSES AND CELLS AS WELL AS GENES - THAN DOES THE CURRENT NIH DELIBERATIONS. THE MRC'S REPORT WILL BE SENT TO THIS CONSULATE WHEN ISSUED AND COPIES FORWARDED TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA AND DEPARTMENT. YLITALO

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